

There were a number of us—in fact, 70 Members of the Senate voted for the more extensive treatment and support for ethanol. Again, that came out in the conference and that is regrettable. But we will continue to fight this fight on behalf of ethanol. I have every expectation and confidence that we will be successful in the long run.

There are a lot of other provisions such as capital gains and estate tax provisions that I have not taken the time to discuss here today. I will not take the additional time to do so now. Instead, I just want to make it clear that I strongly supported the overall bill and the bipartisan approach that made it possible. It was that cooperation, that coming together, that building on our strength with the view and the interests of all the American people, that allowed us to have this victory today.

We did the right thing for America's children. We did the right thing for America's students, our families, and we are doing the right thing for the next generation of Americans. Achieving fiscal responsibility and social fairness simultaneously is something that many thought could not happen. We have done it with this legislation that we passed, and I think every Member of this body who voted for it has reason to be proud of the work of this Congress.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO DAN DUKES AND CELESTE EMBREY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize two young people who served on my staff through all the long hours and difficult days of the last year.

After I was elected majority leader, the next morning at 9 o'clock, I was in the majority leader's office, but I only had about a third or half of the staff that I needed. I had some interns from my State of Mississippi, some college students, who had been working with me just through the summer. I asked them to stay and help us, and they have been with me the last year.

They filled positions that are very vital. They did a great job.

Dan Dukes of Como, MS, has been like my alter ego. He has been with me throughout the day and, on occasions, when I had to go downtown, he has just done a fantastic job.

He has been my personal assistant, shepherding my appointments, finding my lost notebooks, and keeping up with my headlong dashes from meeting to meeting.

Dan has had the patience of a saint and the attention to detail of a seasoned Hill staffer. It is an understatement to say that I will miss him as he returns home to finish his studies at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN.

This is one of those occasions when we say goodbye to a young man with every expectation that we will be seeing him often—and hearing about him too. I have the same feeling about him as I once had about a youngster on my staff by the name of Chip Pickering, who now represents the Third District of our State.

I want to express to him publicly my appreciation for filling in the way he did and doing a great job.

I also want to recognize Celeste Embrey of Southaven, MS, who has been one of the two receptionists in my front office who answered the thousands of calls that have come in, some of them not always very complimentary. She has done it with just charm and grace. In fact, she does just a great job that the President of pro tempore, the Senator from South Carolina, comes by to check on her several times each week to make sure she is doing all right. She appreciates that, and I appreciate that.

Even my colleagues who do not know her by name know well her unfailing smile, her enthusiastic greeting, her ability to make everyone feel at home.

If you have enjoyed the atmosphere of true southern hospitality in my office, you have Celeste to thank. But you cannot fully appreciate what she has done for us until you overhear her conversations with callers—whether from Mississippi or around the country.

She has always dealt with their questions and handled their complaints with a concern and patience that go well beyond the call of duty.

Celeste is off to graduate school, and though there will soon be another person at her desk in my outer office, there will still be a void in our staff. I will have to get her new phone number so that any of us who miss the brightness of her welcome and the cheer of her voice can keep in close touch.

Dan and Celeste are the kind of young people who keep up our faith in the rising generation. I am proud of them. I hope they will always be proud to have been part of the Lott team.

I want to say to these two very fine young people, I really appreciate their work. I am proud of them, and I wish them Godspeed in whatever they do in the years to come.

NOMINATIONS TO REMAIN IN STATUS QUO

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that all nominations received by the Senate during the 105th Congress, first session, remain in status quo, notwithstanding the August-September adjournment of the Senate and the provisions of rule XXXIII, paragraph 6 of the

Standing Rules of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar.

Mr. President, I withdraw that unanimous consent request at this time and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE NAKDIMEN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Dave Nakdimen, an outstanding newsman, who retired after a wonderful career in television news.

Dave served the Louisville area for 36 years on WAVE television news.

Dave was born in London, KY, and became interested in journalism by listening to the radio at an early age. After years of listening to political news and election-night returns, Dave decided to study journalism at the University of Kentucky. After graduation in 1955, he took a job as a sports writer with the Lexington Leader. While working in Lexington, he met his future wife, Wanda, who was moving to Louisville to take a job at a local hospital. After they became engaged, they packed their bags and headed to Louisville, where Dave landed a job at WAVE-TV. The rest is history.

WAVE was his first job in broadcast media. Dave was assigned to cover city hall, and there he met and interviewed some of the most important men and women in the last half of this century. Dave covered the civil rights movement of the 1960's, where he interviewed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during an open-housing march. He also interviewed Ronald Reagan, George Bush, David Brinkley, John Wayne, and countless other memorable personalities.

Dave won't be resting during his retirement, though; he's returning to WAVE-TV after a brief vacation to produce weekly commentaries for the station's 6 o'clock newscasts. When asked by the Courier-Journal if he would repeat his experience in journalism, Mr. Nakdimen responded: "I think so. I really enjoyed it. It was a lot of hard work, but it was a lot of fun, too." Dave's colleagues also remember him fondly. Kathy Beck, the news director at WAVE-TV, said Dave is "a man of great integrity" throughout the news world.

All those who know Dave know that he gives his endeavors his all. He is a deacon at his church, and he shows intense faithfulness in supporting his beloved University of Kentucky Wildcat